

Focus on Fifth

Weekly News for Holmes Fifth-Grade Families

News and Events in the 5th Grade

April 8, 2013

www.op97.org

Important Dates

April 9	Brooks Tour
April 9	Spelling Bee Preliminary Round (in homerooms)
April 15	American Revolution Unit Assessment
April 19-20	Rockin' Lock In
April 26	Institute day (no school)

Dear Families,

Donations for PADS

This year, the fifth grade students will be working with PADS organization to help men, women and children who are homeless. We are asking for donations of these essential items:

white socks	blankets	body lotion (travel size)
washcloths	cough drops	sunscreen (travel size)
hand towels	shaving cream	shampoo & conditioner (travel size)
toothbrushes	combs	deodorant
toothpaste	lip balm	q-tips
mouthwash	water bottle containers	white t-shirts (large & extra large)

We will also be accepting food or fund donations for the OPRF Food Pantry. Thanks for your help!

Brooks Parent Orientation

This Thursday, Brooks will be hosting an orientation for parents and guardians of 5th grade students who will be attending Brooks in the Fall. Please attend to learn more about the school and meet staff and teachers. It is from 7:00 - 8:30 and is only for parents/guardians (no students).

SPECIAL AREA SUBJECTS

Art - 5th graders are sculpting the United States president they researched in Social Studies class. We will be working in clay and studying proportions found in presidential portraits. Our presidents will be three-dimensional and feature details from head to toe. Stay tuned into [www.http://owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com](http://owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com) for pictures of works in progress.

Music - [Check out the website!](#) We are continuing our big Theme and Variations project this week. Students will learn to play the theme of the assignment on the recorder and then create their own variations by changing different musical aspects of the piece. Each student will have their own packet for this assignment. They will work on making one variation by themselves. I will make suggestions on this variation by Wednesday and then allow them to work with me on Friday at 11:30 to improve their assignment. They may also take the assignment home to make corrections and bring it back by Friday. More details about the whole assignment will be available on the music website this week.

Chorus - The Wolves game is Sunday March 17th! Details will be sent home this week about where we are meeting and at what time. If you can give a ride, please email akaria@op97.org. We will be singing "Don't Stop Believing" at the game.

Click here for the karaoke track:

[Don't Stop Believing Audio](#)

And here for the lyrics"

[Don't Stop Lyrics](#)

Spanish - Students will continue to work with the new story about a bombero, Juan. Students can read the story for 10 puntos on the website at : <http://www.mpoleski.blogspot.com/>

Library - There is still one more chance to participate in Reading Olympics this year, and that is with the EXTREME competition! This competition will take place on Wednesday, April 18th at Holmes and will feature all 18 books. In order to compete, you must have been in either the spring or the fall competition (or both). The district Extreme competition is Tuesday, April 23 and will be all day at the Oak Park Public Library.

In other library news, we're continuing to read RJ Palacio's *Wonder* during library time. Take a look at the Wonder website for information about this amazing novel,

<http://choosekind.tumblr.com/> Choose kind! For more on library happenings, please keep up with us on the library home page (<http://www.op97.org/holmes/mediacenter/>).

Physical Education - Please see Mr. Williams' link (www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com) for information.

Reading/Literature

Our focus in reading this week will be on comparing and contrasting books within the same genre. We will be looking at how different authors approach writing about similar topics and themes. Students will be responsible for finding similarities and differences between two stories and writing about how the authors develop the topic and theme.

Language Arts

During the month of April, students will learn how to form an argument. They will take on the role of either a patriot or loyalist during the American Revolution, write an essay arguing their position, and then participate in a debate within the classroom.

Math

Students will continue to work on developing their algebra skills. This week we will be focusing on expressing relationships as formulas, tables and graphs. There will be a short quiz on Friday, and the unit test will be the following week.

Science

Last week we introduced the skeletal and muscular systems. Students labeled the major bones of the body and distinguished between tendons and ligaments. This week, we will work on Cornell notes for these body systems and will move to the respiratory system with a lab on lung volume and vital capacity. We will have a short quiz on Friday.

Social Studies

This week we will look at important documents of the Revolution and the making of our new nation. We will begin with interpreting the Declaration of Independence, followed by understanding the importance of the Treaty of Paris. Next week we will focus on the Bill of Rights. On Tuesday, students will receive a study guide for the **American Revolution Unit Assessment**. The assessment will be given on **Monday, April 15th**.

Visit the **Holmes Digital Backpack** - <http://www.op97.org/holmes/digitalbackpack/>

We're on the Web!

Visit us at: <http://holmes5thgrade.wikispaces.com/>

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